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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 5 July 1974

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1. [] Met with Bill Phillips, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information, House Government Operations Committee, to further discuss Agency problems with H.R. 12206, the Koch bill granting persons access to records concerning them maintained by Government agencies. Phillips said that he still personally is in favor of a total Agency exemption from the bill and the other staff members share this view. He felt this was better rather than a number of special exemptions from provisions in the bill for the Agency. He felt further that this position may be acceptable to the Subcommittee. I again confirmed with him that the Agency seeks either total exemption or an exemption for sources and methods and certain reporting requirements. He hopes the Subcommittee's position will finalize by the latter part of next week and will advise me accordingly. He also asked that we submit a formal letter explaining the procedures now being followed for employee access to official personnel files. The letter would not be for publication but would be for staff use.

He also asked that we clear with the staff within the next two weeks our testimony on H.R. 12004 (establishing a statutory system of classification) which is set for 1 August. Norman Cornish, Deputy Staff Director, wants to develop questions for the staff to ask during the Director's testimony.

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2. [] Called Bill Skidmore, OMB, and advised him that Representative John M. Ashbrook (R., Ohio) had sent the Director a letter requesting Agency comments on H.R. 12471 which amends the Freedom of Information Act and is now in conference. Representative Ashbrook noted the Senate floor debate of 30 May in the bill and the comments by Senator John C. Stennis (D., Miss.) as to the serious impact upon CIA. I asked Skidmore if he would want our response cleared with OMB. He said yes and felt that our letter would be of benefit in determining the overall Administration position on the bill.

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